Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (original): A method for regulating execution of a computer operation, comprising:

reading one or more parameters specified with the computer operation;

determining if the computer operation requires a plug-in and if not, executing the computer operation;

if the computer operation requires at least one plug-in, filtering any required plug-in parameters from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation;

determining whether all required plug-in parameters for the at least one plug-in have been specified;

terminating the at least one plug-in with failure if not all the required plug-in parameters have been specified;

executing the at least one plug-in if all the required plug-in parameters have been specified; and

executing the computer operation if the at least one plug-in terminates with success, wherein the at least one plug-in regulates execution of the computer operation.

2.   (original): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one plug-in requires at least one plug-in parameter.

3.   (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising passing an error message to the computer operation indicating which of the required plug-in parameters have not been specified.

4.   (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising passing a data structure to the computer operation indicating which of the required plug-in parameters have not been specified.

5.   (original): The method of claim 4, further comprising prompting a user of the computer operation for the required plug-in parameters that had not been specified based on the data structure.

6.   (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one plug-in further comprises an authorization plug-in and executing the at least one plug-in further comprises attempting to obtain authorization for executing the computer operation.

7.   (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising terminating the authorization plug-in with failure if authorization was not successfully obtained, thereby terminating the computer operation.

8.   (previously presented): The method of claim 6, wherein obtaining authorization further includes checking to see whether a value of at least one required plug-in parameter matches a value of at least one authorization parameter.

9.   (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one authorization parameter is generated using a license key generating tool.

10.   (original): The method of claim 1, wherein executing at least one plug-in further comprises executing a notification plug-in.

11.   (original): The method of claim 10, further comprising determining whether all of the plug-in parameters required by the notification plug-in are specified before the computer operation and executing the notification plug-in after execution of the computer operation, whereby the computer operation is not executed if the notification plug-in terminates with failure after determining whether all of the plug-in parameters are specified.

12.   (original): The method of claim 10, wherein executing the notification plug-in further comprises notifying a party designated for notification.

13.   (currently amended): A ~~computer operation for executing a system function on a computer further~~ computing device, comprising:

      means for receiving at least one specified computer operation parameter;

at least one plug-in that performs a regulatory function and that terminates with either success or failure;

means for operating the at least one plug-in a check mode; and

means for operating the at least one plug-in in an execute mode,

wherein ~~the~~ a computer operation will execute only if the at least one plug-in terminates with success.

14. (currently amended): The ~~computer operation~~ computing device of claim 13, wherein the computer operation determines which of the specified computer operation parameters is a plug-in parameter and passes all specified plug-in parameters to the at least one plug-in.

15. (currently amended): The ~~computer operation~~ computing device of claim 13, wherein the at least one plug-in requires at least one required plug-in parameter.

16. (currently amended): The ~~computer operation~~ computing device of claim 15, wherein the at least one plug-in determines whether any required plug-in parameters are among the specified plug-in parameters.

17. (currently amended): The ~~computer operation~~ computing device of claim 16, wherein the at least one plug-in has a check mode in which the plug-in is executed to only check for the at least one required plug-in parameter.

18. (currently amended): The ~~computer operation~~ computing device of claim 13, wherein the at least one plug-in has an execute mode in which the execute mode causes the plug-in to perform the regulatory function of the plug-in.

19. (currently amended): The ~~computer operation~~ computing device of claim 17, wherein the computer operation passes a mode flag to the at least one plug-in indicating whether to check for the at least one required plug-in parameter.

20. (currently amended): The ~~computer operation~~ computing device of claim 16, wherein the at least one plug-in generates at least one error message to be returned to the computer operation indicating that at least one required plug-in parameter was not specified.

21.   (currently amended): The ~~computer operation~~ computing device of claim 16, wherein the at least one plug-in passes a data structure to the computer operation, whereby the data structure contains the plug-in parameters that were not specified.

22.   (currently amended): The ~~computer operation~~ computing device of claim 16, wherein the computer operation prompts a user to enter at least one required parameter that was not specified.

23.   (currently amended): The ~~computer operation~~ computing device of claim 13, wherein at least one plug-in is an authorization plug-in.

24.   (currently amended): The ~~computer operation~~ computing device of claim 23, where the authorization plug-in links to a license key generation tool controlled by an authorizing party so that the authorization plug-in grants authorization only if the system application is executed with a parameter specifying a license key generated by that tool.

25.   (currently amended): The ~~computer operation~~ computing device of claim 23, where the authorization plug-in determines if authorization is granted by querying an authorization server to see if the computer is authorized to perform the computer operation.

26.   (currently amended): The ~~computer operation~~ computing device of claim 13, wherein at least one plug-in is a notification plug-in and has means for notifying a party that the computer operation has been executed.

27.   (withdrawn): A method for regulating execution of a computer operation by a computer operator comprising:

providing a programming interface for a customer to customize an authorization routine;

receiving a request to execute a computer operation from a computer operator;

determining if authorization is required for executing the computer operation;

seeking authorization from an authorizing party with the authorization routine if authorization is required;

operating an authorization plug-in in a check mode, comprising determining if all required plug-in parameter are specified;

if all required plug-in parameters are specified operating the authorization plug-in in an execute mode;

executing the computer operation if authorization is granted; and

terminating the computer operation if authorization is denied.

28.   (withdrawn): The method of claim 27, further comprising:

determining if notification is required for executing the computer operation and if notification is required, providing a notification to the party to be notified, so that the party to be notified will know that the computer operation was executed.

29.   (withdrawn): The method of claim 28, wherein prior to executing the computer operation, authorization is sought from the same party as the party being notified, so that the authorizing party is the party being notified.

30.   (withdrawn): The method of claim 27, wherein seeking authorization further comprises asking the computer operator to enter a key and comparing the entered key with a key required by the authorizing party.

31.   (withdrawn): The method of claim 27, further comprising providing a toolkit for the customer to customize the authorization routine.

32.   (withdrawn): The method of claim 28, further comprising determining if notification is required and if notification is required, checking to see if a party to be notified has been specified, wherein failing to specify a party to be notified will cause the computer operation to terminate.